

February 19, 1975

Departments have to say about 294 but what is the general purpose of 294, this bill, what's the purpose of it?

SENATOR BARNETT: The purpose of this bill is to take the child that has been picked up, the child that is a runaway, the child that is a problem in the state of Nebraska and, as I said before, as we know what the D & E center does for adults, this will, basically, do the same thing for juveniles and allow them to be evaluated as to where to be placed, or to return home, or whatever.

SENATOR MARVEL: What is happening to them now?

SENATOR BARNETT: Well, in one case...I mean, not one case but in some of the instances, the courts now are just placing them into a home. They are placing them into Kearney. They are putting them in the Reformatory. Some of them are being sent to the Nebraska Home for Children and Youth. They are being sentenced to a certain period of time. Sit there and not acted upon, not evaluated, or not treated for any problems. They are being forgotten.

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, Geneva is evaluating some, for girls. Kearney is evaluating some, for boys.

SENATOR BARNETT: Yes. Some, and you mention a good point, you say some, which is true.

SENATOR MARVEL: ...and Mr. Rudell's operation, the Nebraska Home for Children and Youth...

SENATOR BARNETT: I think it has a capacity of 12, doesn't it?

SENATOR MARVEL: What?

SENATOR BARNETT: 12 at the Nebraska Home for Children and Youth? It is a capacity of 12 or 20 and I am not sure which.

SENATOR MARVEL: You mean a total capacity.

SENATOR BARNETT: In the one, the D & E center out there.

SENATOR MARVEL: In this area. OK. There is no one person in charge of this total evaluation procedure, is that right, in the state?

SENATOR BARNETT: No. Not that I know of. This is left up to the local courts jurisdiction.

SENATOR MARVEL: OK, thank you, sir.

SENATOR BARNETT: ...and, if I may, Mr. President, I think that as Senator Kelly has said, I hope you are all paying attention because I think I've got an answer coming and you are going to be talking about that later on, and it should answer a lot of these questions in the juvenile area.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: A question of Senator Barnett.

SPEAKER: Do you yield, Senator Barnett?

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator Barnett, on these people who are doing these diagnosis, what are we talking about? I am